

LESSON NUMBER: 8

TASK: Extremism and Extremist Organizations

CONDITION: Classroom environment

STANDARD:

1. Define the Army's Policy on extremism.
2. Explain the Restrictions on Participation in Extremist Organizations.
3. Describe the Definitions of Terms Related to Extremism.
4. Explain the Prohibitions with Regard to Extremism.
5. Explain the Training Responsibilities of the Commander with Regard to Extremist Organizations and Activities.

TYPE OF INSTRUCTION: Conference

TIME OF INSTRUCTION: 1 Hour

MEDIA: Viewgraph #8-1 through Viewgraph #8-3, and Student Handouts #8-1 and #8-2

LEAD IN: The United States Army is comprised of soldiers and civilians from various cultures, ethnic groups, religions and races from around the world. These various groups contain ideologies that range from extremely tolerant to radical, to ultra militant. While it is the policy of the Army that participation in extremist activities or organizations is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military services, as leaders, we must be aware there may always be some individuals who still adhere and believe in racial or ethnic superiority or inferiority. By learning more about the ideologies, history and dynamics of supremacist extremist groups, you will have a better understanding of the influences that can affect your soldiers and how their beliefs or actions can affect those of their peers. Understanding these issues will prepare you to better handle the problems you may find facing you with regard to this serious issue in today's society. Keep in mind any issue within society will likely find its way into the Army at some point. Extremism and extremist activities are no exception.

NOTE: Ask students if they have ever been approached, or do they know of anyone who has been approached to join an extremist group. If so, how did they handle the situation?

PART I. ARMY'S POLICY ON EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS

1. Impact on the unit and the mission. When individuals in the armed services are supportive of an extremist organization there is an immediate impact on the unit. Even as the mission continues and work is accomplished, the overall command climate

changes as it adjusts to the new element. In a lot of instances, even individuals who oppose or disagree will not confront the extreme views of another. They either do not feel directly affected by it or they may fear they may damage the unit's working environment. However, the unit will divide into opposing factions and when this happens it is no longer efficient, unit cohesion is impacted and the "team concept" of completing the mission is gone. Time and effort are now required to deal with the situation and recover from the effects of the isolation caused by the extremist views in the unit. The following are examples of how the unit is affected:

a. Command climate suffers. If there is a lack of trust and cohesiveness among unit members, morale will suffer, along with unit readiness.

b. Polarization of groups is a logical product of this type of activity within a unit. Those who support these types of views are hardly likely to work closely with members of minority groups.

c. Undermines confidence among unit members.

d. Productivity is hampered and mission accomplishment can be seriously affected. The unit will not work together in either training or execution of its mission.

e. Unnecessary efforts are required to recover from a neglected situation and time is lost. Enormous amount of time must be spent to retrain, counsel, investigate, and corrective action.

2. **POLICY.** It is the policy of the U.S. Army to provide equal opportunity and treatment for all soldiers without regard to race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. Based on this philosophy, participation in extremist organizations or activities is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service. Military personnel must reject participation in extremist organizations and activities. Extremist organizations and activities are one that advocate racial, gender, or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocate, create, or engage in illegal discrimination based on race, color, gender, religion, or national origin; advocate the use of force or violence, or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the United States Constitution or the laws of the United States or any State; or advocate or seek to overthrow the Government of the United States, or any States by unlawful means.

NOTE: Refer students to Student Handout #8-1, Army Policy on Extremism and Extremist Organizations

3. **PROHIBITIONS.** Soldiers are prohibited from the following actions in support of Extremist organizations or activities. Penalties for violations of these prohibition include the full range of statutory and regulatory sanctions, both criminal (UCMJ) and administrative.

- a. Participating in a public demonstration or rally;
- b. Attending a meeting or activity with knowledge that the meeting or activity involves an extremist cause when on duty, when in uniform, when in a foreign country (whether on or off duty or in uniform), when it constitutes a breach of law and order, when violence is likely to result, or when in violation of off-limits sanctions or a commander's order;
- c. Fund raising activities;
- d. Recruiting or training members (including encouraging other soldiers to join);
- e. Creating, organizing, or taking a visible leadership role in such an organization or activity;
- f. Distributing literature on or off a military installation with the primary purpose and content of which concerns advocacy or support of extremist causes, organizations, or activities and it appears the literature presents a clear danger to the loyalty, discipline, or morale of military personnel, or if the distribution would materially interfere with the accomplishment of a military mission.

PART II. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

SHOW VIEWGRAPH #8-1

TERMS AND DEFINITIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supremacist • Extremist • Extremist Organizations • Ideology • Militia. • Gangs

1. **TERMS AND DEFINITIONS.** In addition to the definition already presented for extremism and extremist organizations and activities, there are other terms you should be familiar with in order to discuss this issue with your soldiers. They include:

- a. **Supremacist.** Any person(s) maintaining the ideology, quality, state of being, or position of being superior to all others in something.

b. **Extremist.** A person who advocates the use of force or violence; advocates supremacist causes based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, or national origin; or otherwise engages to deprive individuals or groups or their civil rights.

c. **Extremist Organizations.** A group which advocates the use of force or violence, advocates supremacist causes; based on ethnicity, religion, gender, or national origin; or otherwise engages in efforts to deprive individuals or groups of their civil rights.

d. **Ideology.** A systematic body of concepts especially about human life or culture; a way of thinking used by a group or individual to express their beliefs and social values.

e. **Militia.** A body of soldiers not permanently organized in time of peace. Many militia organizations have been formed because of their objection to national or local government (anti-democratic) policies or programs.

f. **Gangs.** A group of individuals who band together, usually along racial or ethnic lines. Generally, gangs are prone to violent behavior.

2. **Recruitment and Affiliation.** Instead of standing in streets dressed in sheets and shouting hate messages; most extremists are now sitting in bars and break areas, wearing street clothes. To lure prospects, extremists are quietly talking about individual liberties, states' rights, and how, with your help, they can make the world a better place to live. The standard hateful message has not been replaced; just packaged differently with issues like freedom of speech, anti-gun control themes, tax reform, and oppression.

a. Recognizable hate symbols and paraphernalia are usually hidden until a recruit is hooked on the validity of the ideology. In some cases, individuals subscribe to the ideology and not necessarily to the group. Because of their unique experiences, expertise, capabilities, and resources; public officials, law enforcement, and military personnel are recruiting bonuses. Based on these qualities it is believed these people are highly recruited over others.

b. Some groups raise young adults in their ideology and then they enter the military to gain expertise and knowledge. Once knowledge is obtained, they leave the military and bring that knowledge back to their organization. Additionally, those individuals recruit peers while in the military to join their cause.

PART III. EXTREMIST GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

SHOW VIEWGRAPH #8-2

EXTREMIST GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- **Identity (Creationism)**
- **White Supremacy Ideology**
- **Patriotism-Survival Ideology**

1. **EXTREMIST GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS.** The majority of extremist groups and organizations have one predominant theme of superiority of one race over the other. This theme can also be applied to ethnicity and religious groups. Some of these groups and organizations proclaim violence as a means to achieve their goals, while others use pseudo-religious themes from their own interpretation of the bible. Most of these groups develop ideologies in an attempt to justify, legitimize and rationalize one particular version of reality despite other explanations and ideas. Ideology is also a way of thinking used by a group to express their beliefs and social values. Christian Conservatism is closely tied to many of the extremist groups and organizations. While the following groups are not representative of all extremist groups, a large portion that we are most familiar with generally fall into one of the three following categories:

a. **Identity (Creationism).** Followers of this ideology tend to believe the Jews are the descendants of Satan, and white Anglo-Saxons are the true Israelites, "God's chosen people," and the sons of Adam and the descendants of the Lost Tribes of Israel. They also believe in an impending worldwide race war which only whites will survive in the protection and maintenance of God's nation. The identity movement views the bible as the true 'word of god' and was written for specific people (the white race). The true literal children of the bible are the tribes of Israel to whom God promised a new land, a promised land, which identity churches identify as the United States. These children of God (colonist) were ordered to occupy their land, to cleanse it of Satan's children and 'sin', which is the evil power of Satan. They are to occupy the earth and rule in righteousness with God the head of the government. Groups falling into ideologies along these lines are:

- (1) Ku Klux Klan.
- (2) Neo-Nazi.
- (3) Aryan Nation.
- (4) Identity Movement Churches.
- (5) New Jerusalem Fellowship.
- (6) Church of Jesus Christ Christian.
- (7) Church of the Creator.

b. **White Supremacy Ideology.** The Christian Conservative “Identity” explanation of the diverse races of mankind is grounded in Biblical interpretation. According to this ideology, the white race is directly descended from Adam. The Jews are held to be the sons of Cain who was the issue of Eve after her original sin. Thus, Cain was the son of Satan and all of his descendants are the “spawn of the devil.” The ultra-conservative Christian churches use Identity ideology to base theories of white superiority and the duty of whites to survive and defend the U.S. identity, thus ties closely to this ideology and carries into the thought of white supremacy. Keep in mind many right wing groups deny their ideology of white supremacy. Instead, they are concerned with “racial purity,” the safeguarding of the existence and reproduction of the white race. This is a facade of the white supremacist groups to try to convince people to believe they are only concerned with “racial purity,” however; they are the first to decry “reverse discrimination” and preach Anti-Semitism and anti-black doctrines. Groups falling into ideologies along these lines are:

- (1) Separatists (Nationalist).
- (2) Third Position (Aryan Socialism).
- (3) Neo-Nazi Skinheads.
- (4) Fifth Era.

c. **Patriotism-Survival Ideology.** Protection of basic Constitutional freedoms is the major theme of the Patriot-Survivalist groups. It is more so the preservation of the Anglo-Saxon, “American-type culture” which the founders of our nation secured for all whites. A lot of members are considered Christian Conservative and White Supremacist. The members point blame of economic troubles, including unemployment, on refugees, Jews, Blacks, illegal aliens, Cubans and all other non-white groups. Much of their propaganda is tied to white supremacy ideology and an inevitable race war will occur. Traitors, meaning white Anglo-Saxons who do not hold the same beliefs are often noted in their literature. Groups falling into ideologies along these lines are:

- (1) Racial Survivalist.
- (2) Posse Comitatus.
- (3) Populist.
- (4) Militias.

2. **MILITIAS.** The militia movement is very fluid. New groups form and others disappear so frequently it is difficult, if not impossible, to track which groups are active

at any given moment. The character of these groups also may change rapidly as different factions, some extreme with neo-Nazi ties and other moderates, with law abiding goals vie for control. In some cases, there are support groups that do not engage in military training or typically have rank structures, but instead provide information and materials to militias.

3. **TATTOOS.** Tattoos are frequently associated with racist and/or gang activities. Skinheads frequently use tattoos and symbols of lightning bolts, skulls, Nazi swastikas, eagles, and Nordic warriors. Skinhead graphics also feature barbed wire, hobnailed boots, and hammers in their symbolism. This information being provided is general in nature and is provided as a guide only to assist EORs, EOAs, leaders, and commanders. No immediate assumptions should be made when strange or suspicious tattoos are observed. However, they may be considered a warning signal something might be worth checking into further. When in doubt, consult the Staff Judge Advocate for clarification and guidance.

NOTE: Refer students to Student Handout #8-2, Tattoo Decision Support Matrix. Review the flow chart with the students and advise them this matrix is provided to assist the command with regard to suspected extremist related tattoos

4. **Command Authority.** Commanders have the authority to prohibit military personnel from engaging in or participating in any other activities the commander determines will adversely affect good order and discipline or morale within the command. This includes, but is not limited to, the authority to order the removal of symbols, flags, posters, or other displays from barracks, to place areas or activities off-limits (see AR 190-25), or to order soldiers not to participate in those activities that are contrary to good order and discipline or morale of the unit or pose a threat to health, safety, and security or military installation.

PART IV. COMMAND OPTIONS

SHOW VIEWGRAPH #8-3

COMMAND OPTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UCMJ Actions• Involuntary Separation• Reclassification• Administrative Action.

1. **Command Options.** Commander's option for dealing with a soldier's violation of the prohibitions include:

a. UCMJ action. Possible violations include:

(1) Article 92 -- Violation or failure to obey a lawful general order or regulation (for example, participation in demonstrations, distributions of literature without approval, or unlawful discrimination).

(2) Article 116 -- Riot or breach of peace.

(3) Article 117 -- Provoking speeches or gestures.

(4) Article 134 -- General article, specifically, conduct which is prejudicial to the good order and discipline or service discrediting.

b. Involuntary separation for unsatisfactory performance or misconduct, or for conduct deemed prejudicial to good order and discipline or morale.

c. Reclassification actions or bar to reenlistment actions, as appropriate.

d. Other administrative or disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the commander, based on the specific facts and circumstances of the particular case.

2. **Command Responsibilities.** Any soldier involved with or in an extremist organization or activity, such as membership, receipt of literature, or presence at an event, could threaten the good order and discipline of a unit. In any case of apparent soldier involvement with or in extremist organization or activities, whether or not is a violation of the prohibitions in subparagraph (2), commanders must take positive actions to educate soldiers, putting them on notice of potential adverse effects that participation in violation of the Army policy may have upon good order and discipline in the unit and upon their military service. These positive actions include:

a. Educating soldiers regarding the Army's equal opportunity policy. Commanders will advise soldiers that extremist organization's goals are inconsistent with the Army goals, beliefs, and values concerning equal opportunity.

b. Advising soldiers any participation in extremist organizations or activities:

(1) Will be taken into consideration when evaluating their overall duty performance to include appropriate remarks on evaluation reports.

(2) Will be taken into consideration when selections for positions of leadership and responsibility are made.

(3) Will result in removal of security clearances, where appropriate.

(4) Will result in reclassification actions or bar to reenlistment actions as appropriate.

3. Commander's Responsibilities:

a. Understand what their service members positions are.

b. Be alert for indicators of extremist ties or behaviors.

c. Enforce policies on active participation.

d. Educate and counsel service members on understanding of policy.

e. The commander or a military installation or other military controlled facility under the jurisdiction of the United States shall prohibit any demonstration or activity on the installation or facility that could result in interference with or prevention of orderly accomplishment on the mission of the installation or facility, or present clear danger to loyalty, discipline, or morale of the troops. Furthermore, such commanders shall deny requests for the use of military controlled facilities by individuals or groups that engage in discriminatory practices involving such practices.

f. Commanders should seek the advice and counsel of their legal advisor when taking actions pursuant to this paragraph.

4. TRAINING ON EXTREMIST ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS. Each member of your unit should receive training on extremist activities and organizations. By providing training to your soldiers, you not only educate them, but also put them on notice of the potential adverse effects that participation in these types of activities may have on their military careers. The training provided to soldiers should include not only the policy and prohibition of participating in extremist organizations or activities, but at a minimum the following:

a. The Army's Equal Opportunity policy. Soldiers should be clearly instructed that extremist organizations' goals are inconsistent with the Army's goals, beliefs, and values with regard to equal opportunity.

b. Participation in extremist organizations or activities may be taken into consideration when evaluating their overall duty performance, to include appropriate remarks on evaluation reports.

c. When selections for positions of leadership and responsibility are made, their participation may be considered.

d. Participation may lead to removal of security clearance.

e. May result in reclassification actions or bar to reenlistment actions being initiated and finalized.

f. UCMJ actions may be initiated.

g. Involuntary separation for unsatisfactory performance or misconduct, or for conduct deemed prejudicial to good order and discipline or morale.

h. Other administrative or disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the commander.

CLOSING: Extremism in most any form can have a very serious, and negative impact on unit cohesion and effectiveness. We must always try to be aware of any type activity trying to surface in our work areas and living areas. As the leaders in the Army, you are in the best position to know what the soldiers are doing. You are also in the best position to influence your soldiers. You should be always on the alert for signs of extremist activities within your organization. Encourage your soldiers to report anyone approaching them on the subject of extremism. If you see evidence of this type of behavior or activities, immediately report your concerns to the chain of command. Our soldiers have every right to expect the Army to keep this type of activity out of their living and working areas. You, as their Equal Opportunity Representative, have the responsibility to do your absolute best to ensure it does not surface in your units. Summarize lesson objectives.

STUDENT HANDOUT #8-1

ARMY POLICY ON EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Participation in extremist organizations or activities is inconsistent with the responsibilities of military service. It is the policy of the U.S. Army to provide equal opportunity and treatment for all soldiers without regard to race, color, religion, sex, or national origin. Enforcement of the Army's equal opportunity policy is a responsibility of command, is vitally important to unit cohesion and morale, and is essential to the Army's ability to accomplish its mission. It is the commander's responsibility to maintain good order and discipline in the unit. Every commander has the inherent authority to take appropriate actions to accomplish this goal. This paragraph identifies

prohibited actions by soldiers involving extremist organizations or activities, discusses the authority of the commander to establish other prohibitions, and establishes that violation of the prohibitions contained in this paragraph or those established by a commander may result in prosecution under various provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ). This paragraph must be used in conjunction with DoD Directive 1325.6, Subject: Guidelines for Handling Dissident and Protest Activities Among Members of the Armed Forces.

a. **Participation.** Military personnel must reject participation in extremist organizations and activities. Extremist organizations and activities are one that advocate racial, gender or ethnic hatred or intolerance; advocate, create, or engage in illegal of or use force or violence or unlawful means to deprive individuals of their rights under the United States Constitution or laws of the United States or any State; or advocate or seek to overthrow the Government of the United States, or any States by unlawful means.

b. **Prohibitions.** Soldiers are prohibited from following actions in support of extremist organizations or activities. Penalties for violations of these prohibitions include the full range of statutory and regulatory sanctions, both criminal (UCMJ) and administrative.

(1) Participating in a public demonstration or rally;

(2) Attending a meeting or activity with knowledge that the meeting or activity involves an extremist cause when on duty, when in uniform, when in a foreign country (whether on or off duty or in uniform), when it constitutes a breach of law and order, when violence is likely to result, or when violation of off-limits sanctions or a commander's order;

(3) Fund raising;

(4) Recruiting or training members (including encouraging other soldiers to join);

(5) Creating, organizing, or taking a visible leadership role in such an organization or activity; or

(6) Distributing literature on or off a military installation the primary purpose and content of which concerns advocacy or support of extremist causes, organizations, or activities and it appears that the literature presents a clear danger to the loyalty, discipline, or morale of military personnel, or if the distribution would materially interfere with the accomplishment of a military mission.

c. **Command authority.** Commanders have the authority to prohibit military personnel from engaging in or participating in any other activities that the commander

determines will adversely affect good order and discipline or morale within the command. This includes, but is not limited to, the authority to order the removal of symbols, flags, posters, or other displays from barracks, to place areas or activities off-limits (see AR 190-25), or to order soldiers not to participate in those activities that are contrary to good order and discipline or morale of the unit or pose a threat to health, safety, and security of military personnel or a military installation.

d. **Command options.** Commander's options for dealing with a soldier's violation of the prohibitions include --

(1) UCMJ action. Possible violations include --

(a) Article 92 -- Violation of or failure to obey a lawful general order or regulation (for example, participation in demonstrations, distribution of literature without approval, or unlawful discrimination).

(b) Article 116 -- Riot or breach of peace.

(c) Article 117 -- Provoking speeches or gestures.

(d) Article 134 -- General article, specifically, conduct which is prejudicial to good order and discipline or service discrediting.

(2) Involuntary separation for unsatisfactory performance or misconduct, or for conduct deemed prejudicial to good order and discipline or morale.

(3) Reclassification actions or bar to reenlistment actions, as appropriate.

(4) Other administrative or disciplinary action deemed appropriate by the commander, based on the specific facts and circumstances of the particular case.

e. **Command responsibility.** Any soldier involvement with or in an extremist organization or activity, such as membership, receipt of literature, or presence at an event, could threaten the good order and discipline of a unit. In any case of apparent soldier involvement with or in extremist organizations or activities, whether or not violative of the prohibitions in subparagraph b, commanders must take positive actions to educate soldiers, putting them on notice of the potential adverse effects that participation violation of Army policy may have upon good order and discipline in the unit and upon their military service. These positive actions include --

(1) Educating soldiers regarding the Army's equal opportunity policy. Commanders will advise soldiers that extremist organizations' goals are inconsistent with Army goals, beliefs, and values concerning equal opportunity.

(2) Advising soldiers that any participation in extremist organizations or activities:

(a) Will be taken into consideration when evaluating their overall duty performance, to include appropriate remarks on evaluation reports.

(b) Will be taken into consideration when selections for positions of leadership and responsibility are made.

(c) Will result in removal of security clearances, where appropriate.

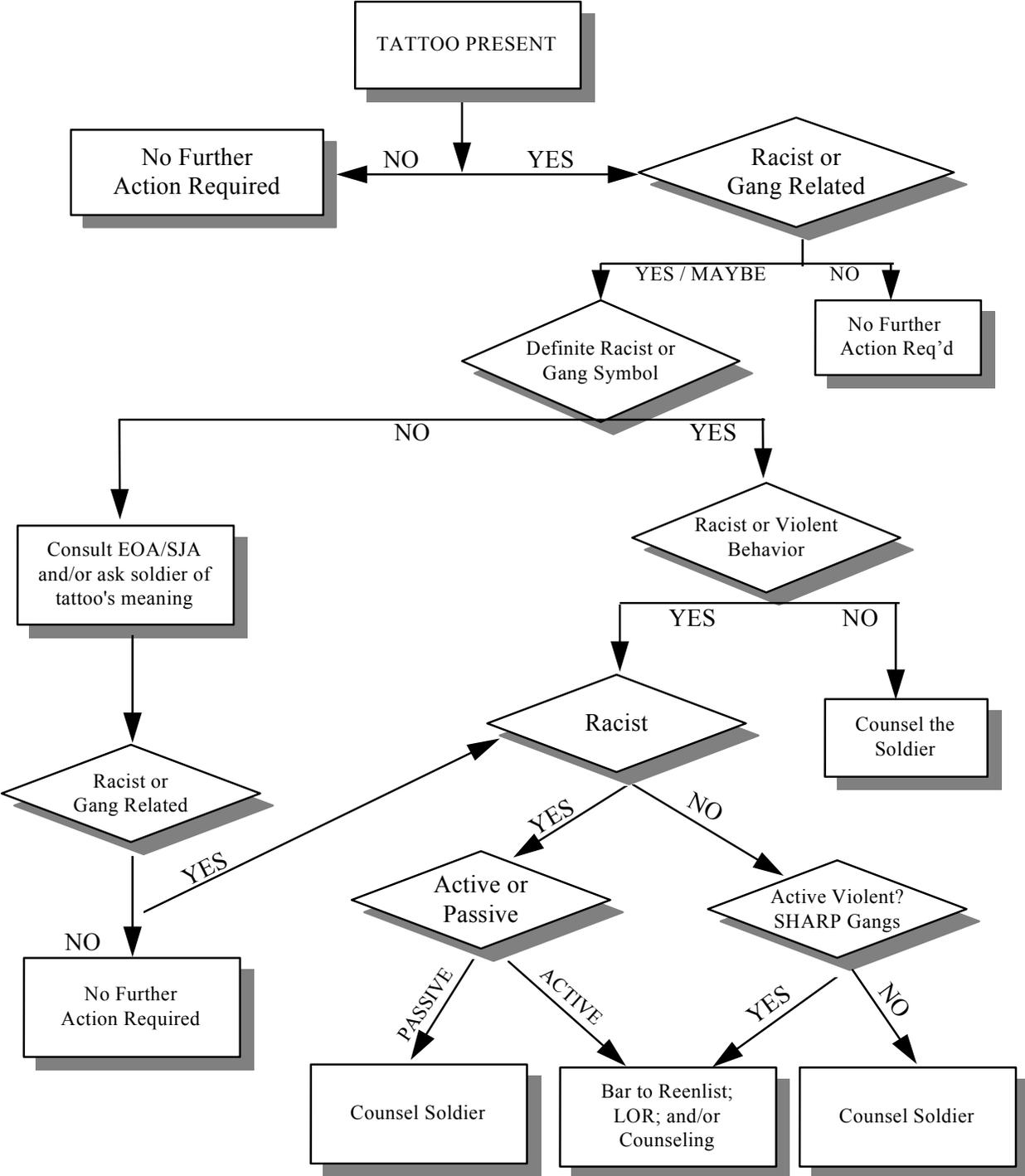
(d) Will result in reclassification actions or bar to reenlistment actions as appropriate.

(3) The commander of a military installation or other military controlled facility under the jurisdiction of the United States shall prohibit any demonstration or activity on the installation or facility that could result in interference with or prevention of orderly accomplishment of the mission on the installation or facility, or present a clear danger to loyalty, discipline, or morale of the troops. Further, such commanders shall deny requests for the use of military controlled facilities by individuals or groups that engage in discriminatory practices or for activities involving such practices.

f. Commanders should seek the advice and counsel of their legal advisor when taking actions pursuant to this paragraph.

**STUDENT HANDOUT #8-2
Tattoo Decision Matrix**

TATTOO DECISION SUPPORT MATRIX





TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

- **SUPREMACIST**
- **EXTREMIST**
- **EXTREMIST ORGANIZATION**
- **IDEOLOGY**
- **MILITIA**
- **GANGS**



EXTREMIST GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- **IDENTITY (CREATIONISM)**
- **WHITE SUPREMACY IDEOLOGY**
- **PATRIOTISM - SURVIVAL IDEOLOGY**



COMMAND OPTIONS

- UCMJ ACTIONS
- INVOLUNTARY SEPARATION
- RECLASSIFICATION
- ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION